

# The Oxford County Citizen.

VOLUME XXIX—NUMBER 12

BETHEL, MAINE, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1923

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## THE J. E. JONES LETTER

### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY AT CAMP DEVENS

**THE NEW PRESIDENT**  
A Nation stunned by the death of President Warren G. Harding early this morning, July 26, followed itself to ask, "What kind of a man is Coolidge?" The answer was

The company entrained Saturday morning, July 21, for a 16 day tour of everyone who knew agreed that "he's duty at Camp Devens. Leaving the safe." As the Capital has taken his measurements in these sad days there marched to the station and entrained. The Capital may develop remarkable leadership in the great office to which he has been called. He is as much needed to Devens via Portland, arriving at camp about 6 P. M. On reaching camp we found that Headquarters and Harding were lovable men who Company were to be in barracks by drew the people to them by the charm themselves and have their own ways, of their personalities. Roosevelt was and we sure did have some "show," a different type. Coolidge is apparently thanks to Mess Sergeant Bean and "Lan-

ley in another class by himself. In the ky the Cook."

Our first day was taken up for organization. Monday the Regiment went for target practice on the range and would have made a fine showing but in Washington as Vice President, Governor Baxter arrived in camp and never gave the public a single thrill, of course we wished to do him honor. But that is nothing against him. He is thus our program was broken up and of the type of whom it might be said: "Yes, he has no enthusiasm today."

The last time I remember seeing him before he became President he was visiting the Lincoln Memorial. He was alone. As he walked down the steps there was something impressive and deliberate in his manner and I recall that I "sized him up" in my own mind and compared the wiry, sober, aged with Lincoln himself. Calvin Coolidge is a sad-faced gentleman, but

Entertainment was provided at Library Theatre by moving pictures and vaudeville, and the shows were one hundred per cent better than the previous year.

In spite of the fact that the program for the two weeks was broken the tour of duty was as a whole much better than in past years.

On Monday evening, July 20, at eight o'clock a banquet was given to all non-commissioned officers by Colonel Harry M. Bigelow. The following menu was served:

Roast Stuffed Chicken Brown Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce  
Olivier Pickles  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Peas Pickled Beets  
Parker House Rolls  
Fruit Pudding with Molasses  
Ice Cream à la Mode  
Fruit Nut  
Oatmeal Pudding

After the dinner was over an entertainment was by members from different companies, consisting of songs, and banjo solos, followed by an elaborate program for the day was cancelled. After this tents were all taken down and we left for home arriving at Bethel at 4:45, marched to the Armory where we were dismissed.

**HITS ON THE COMPANY MEMBERS**  
On, Hank, how would you be as soon as to rob dogs addled and chotted by the Sgt. Major?

Oh, Lt. C., don't let that cheese knife help you while pulling off a review, it looks awkward.

Sgt. B. thinks it best to have his bedding stored in his cot.

Pvt. Swan has a lofty mind and likes to sleep in high altitude. He calls his cot to the ceiling.

Sgt. Mo. V. likes salt powder for his teeth, also for a mouth wash. Corp. Berry smokes so freely so to cause him after two days of exemption.

Sgt. Davis was afraid of getting lost so he kept field glasses with him all the time.

Armstrong is so short-legged he had to buy a Miller car to keep up with his company.

Id. T. as a greater clerk makes a good mixer for punch, also a good sampler.

Sgt. Bush—When he found out that we were going to have an all day battle he was taken very ill and was confined to barracks.

We understand that Pvt. Bennett was in a very refined position of character, tall and commanding, fit for many and divers.

Sgt. Estelle Tyler has completed the summer course at Bates College and returned to her home in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hatchinson and daughter, Barbara, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Collins Morgan.

Miss Alice Kimball of Boston is the guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Kimball, for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodbury Tibbets has returned to Palermo, Maine, after spending several weeks with his son, Dr. R. H. Tibbets, and family.

Mrs. Hermon Roberts and children have returned from Massachusetts, where they have been visiting relatives the past few weeks.

Miss Alice Barnes and Miss Mildred Melants were dinner guests of Miss Adeline Russell at "Camp Samson," Wednesday.

### CARVER'S STORE ENTERED BY BURGLARS

L. L. Carver's store was broken into sometime during Tuesday night. Entrance was gained by prying open the back door with tools secured from the shop of Frank R. Bartlett which the burglars had also entered. The cash register, safe and some of the drawers in the store were ransacked and some money and jewelry taken. No clue has as yet been found of the guilty party.

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. S. T. Achenbach, Pastor  
Thursday, Aug. 16, 2:30: Annual Sale in Garland Memorial Chapel, under auspices of the Ladies' Club.

Sunday, Aug. 19.

10:45. Worship conducted by the pastor. Subject of sermon, "The People of the Kingdom in a Disturbed World." Matthew 5:9.

12:00. Church School.

7:30. Worship conducted by the pastor. Methodist Episcopal people joining in a union meeting. All are invited to all services.

#### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Fred Atkins Moore will preach at this church next Sunday, on the subject, "Why Worry?" This will be Mr. Moore's last Sunday here.

#### WEST BETHEL UNION CHURCH

Rev. Ernest Weals, Pastor  
10:30 Morning Worship. Sermon, "The Model Prayer."

11:30 Church School. Chester Wheeler, Superintendent.

7:30 Evening Worship. Sermon, "The Parable of the Talents."

Everyone is cordially invited to these services. Special music.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

Spring Street  
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.  
Sunday services at 10:45 A. M.

#### UPTON UNION CHURCH

H. C. Brokehurst, Minister  
Morning service at 11:00 o'clock.  
Sunday School at 12 noon.

Evening service at 7:30 o'clock.

This evening service is given over to a time of song and prayer with short informal talk by the minister.

#### review.

These exercises were brief owing to the death of President Harding, and an elaborate program for the day was cancelled. After this tents were all taken down and we left for home arriving at Bethel at 4:45, marched to the Armory where we were dismissed.

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Mrs. Hermon Roberts and children have returned from Massachusetts, where they have been visiting relatives the past few weeks.

Miss Alice Barnes and Miss Mildred Melants were dinner guests of Miss Adeline Russell at "Camp Samson," Wednesday.

### BETHEL AND VICINITY

Mr. A. C. Frost of South Paris was in town, Sunday.

Mr. James Day is the guest of his sister, Mrs. W. H. Thurston.

Mrs. Irving Kimball is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Tibbets.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Ramsell and family were in Norway, recently.

Mrs. Bertha Woodrow is visiting relatives in Colebrook, N. H.

Dr. I. H. Wight and family are camping for a few days at Locke's Mills.

Mr. A. M. Chase of Bryant's Pond was a business visitor in town, Monday.

Mr. Joseph Clark of Readville, Mass., spent the week end at W. F. Clark's.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Vail are receiving congratulations upon the birth of a son, Matthew.

Mr. B. H. Cole of Milan, N. H., is visiting at the home of Mr. T. B. Burk.

Mr. Holden and three sisters are at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Thurston.

Mr. C. L. Mills and family were at Farmington, Sunday, the guests of relatives.

Mr. Charles Brown of Los Angeles, Calif., called on friends in town last week.

Mrs. H. C. Howe was in Portland, Tuesday, to see her sister, Miss Cleo Russell.

Mr. George Bennett of Norway was calling upon old friends in Bethel, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wight and Mr. and Mrs. Holt of Hanover were in town, Monday.

Mr. L. W. Ramsell was called to Norway, Monday, by the serious illness of a niece.

Mrs. Hiram Wiles of Norway visited her sister, Mrs. Wm. Lowe, the first of the week.

Mrs. Addie K. Mason has completed her duties at E. P. Brown's and returned to her home.

Miss Eddie Lynn Goodridge of West Bethel was the guest of Miss Ruth Brown, Tuesday.

Mrs. Harris White of Haverhill, Mass., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Lowe.

Mr. Wendell Clark of Auburn is this week's guest of his aunt, Mrs. Norman Sachorn and family.

The W. B. C. held a memorial service at their meeting Thursday evening for the late President.

Mr. Fred Robertson has returned to Rochester, N. Y., after spending a week with relatives in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Williams and daughter of South Paris were Sunday visitors at Mr. Fred Clark's.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hamlin of Berlin, N. H., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sachorn.

Mr. Wm. MacKay has returned from Prince Edward Island, where he has been visiting relatives the past two weeks.

Mrs. Patch and daughter, Veeta, and Mrs. Mann and daughter, Elizabeth, of Winslow are guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Clark.

Miss Esther Tyler has completed the summer course at Bates College and returned to her home in town.

Mrs. Estelle Day is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tibbets.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hatchinson and daughter, Barbara, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Collins Morgan.

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Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clark and daughter, Alice, and Mr. and Mrs. George Macmillan, were in Gorham, Sunday, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Colgate.

Mr. Charles Cross and daughter, Bertha, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred and Edna, were in Gorham, Sunday, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Colgate.

### A FAMILY REUNION

An unusual gathering of all members of one family was the occasion on Sunday, Aug. 12th, of the celebration of the 85th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Angelia Mason Clark, a representative of one of Bethel's oldest families.

There were present at the anniversary dinner, besides an older sister, Mrs. Mary Mason McNab, the four children of Mrs. Clark and every member of each family as follows: Irving Mason Clark; Edmund Clark, his wife Mary Field Clark and children, Elsie Stuart Clark, Adele Field Clark; Roseon Colking Clark, his wife Lillian Kimball Clark and children Hugh Mason Clark, Wendell Kimball Clark; Ruby Eldredge, her husband William F. Eldredge and children, Anna Mason Eldredge, Arthur Simeon Eldredge.

It is of interest to those who enjoy looking up the early history of Bethel and the history of the original settlers, to know that Mrs. Clark is one of the few descendants now living in Bethel of one of the early pioneers, Moses.

Moses came to the town with his family in 1799 from Dublin, N. H., and his descendants were, for over a century, prominently identified with the town's affairs along with the Twitchells, Chapmans and others of the early settlers.

The original homestead was erected in 1893 on the farm just north of the covered bridge over the Androscoggin river and remains practically as it was built nearly a century and a quarter ago. There Mrs. Clark was born, a granddaughter of the late Jacob Nichols on High Street, which has since been their home.

Mrs. Clark is survived by her husband and three children, Mrs. Annie Bryant of Bryant's Pond, and Miss Hazel Swan and Mrs. Gladys Robarge, who make their home with their parents. She is also survived by three sisters, Mrs. Esther Dyke of Hanover, Mrs. Ida Blake of Bethel, and Mrs. Ira Powers of South Paris; and four brothers, Frank Knight of Bethel, Whiter of Bethel, George of East Bethel, and Charles of Norway.

Mrs. Swan is survived by her husband and working woman, and devoted to her family. She was a member of the South Paris Congregational Church.

The Swan family came from Greenwood to South Paris about thirteen years ago, and Mr. Swan has been in the employ of the Paris Manufacturing Co. A few years since they purchased the house of the late Jacob Nichols on High Street, which has since been their home.

A son of the pioneer, also named Moses, lived on Bethel Hill and represented the district in Congress during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. A grandson of the pioneer, also named Moses, was the last representative of the family to own the home place in Mayville. The last named Moses died in 1901 and was an older brother of Moses Mason Clark.

The pioneer Moses was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He was a soldier under General Stark at the Battle of Bennington and there is now in the possession of the family the musket he used in that battle and a powder horn he picked up on that battlefield once the property of a British soldier.

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**CANTON**

Impressive memorial services for the late President were held at the Opera House, Canton, on Friday afternoon, the seating capacity of the hall being filled. Hon. John P. Swasey presided and the following program was carried out: Prayer, Rev. F. M. Lamb; Hymn, Scripture reading, Dorothy Morse; vocal solo, Rev. F. M. Lamb; address by Col. Philo Hersey of San Jose, Calif., for the G. A. R.; Supt. W. L. Chase for the schools; Rev. M. L. Hadley for the town; Rev. Edgar Wolfe of Lewiston for the State; and Hon. J. P. Swasey for the nation; benediction. The hall was beautifully decorated with flags, ferns and goldenrod. Places of refreshment were closed during the services.

Mrs. S. T. Hayden has returned from the hospital at Brookline, Mass., much benefited by her treatment there. Her friend, Miss Belle Peters of Quincy, Mass., returned with her for a visit. Mr. and Mrs. Ned M. Russell of Boston are guests of his father, A. F. Russell, and family.

Ellie Sampson and family have moved from Fayette to the Wright house on Spring Street.

George Rose and family are visiting relatives in Walpole, Mass.

Miss May Alley of Boston has been spending her vacation with her father, A. H. Alley, and brother C. S. Alley and family.

Frank C. Bartlett and wife of Long Island, N. Y., have been guests of his brother, Fred C. Bartlett, and family. They made the trip by auto.

Mr. and Mrs. Lottie Littlefield and son, Leslie, Jr., of Lynn, Mass., have been guests of their cousin, Mrs. Ears Chamberlin and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Lane and little son, who have been living in Casper, Wyoming, for the past few years, have started by auto on their trip to Maine, where they plan to locate. They expect to arrive the last of August or the first days of September.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Childs of Lewisburg, Mrs. Bertha Childs Stanley and daughter, Virginia, of Taunton, Mass., and cousin, Miss Fletcher, of Manchester, N. H., have been calling on relatives and friends in Canton.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Patterson of Orange, N. J., have been guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Ray. They were former residents of Canton, Mr. Patterson being employed as bookkeeper for the L. W. Smith Company.

Miss Nina Russell has resigned her position at Nattek, Mass., and has gone to Portland for a couple of months.

**Ford \$5.00 Enrolls YOU**

**Ford Weekly Purchase Plan**

\$5.00 starts you toward the ownership of any type of Ford Car, Truck or Fordson Tractor.

We will deposit your payments in a local bank at interest. You can add a little every week. Soon the payments, plus the interest, will make the Car, Truck or Tractor yours.

Come in and get full details.

**Herrick Bros. Co.**  
BETHEL, MAINE

ANSWER

CO.

WORKERS



**NEW ENGLAND CROP OUT-  
LOOK REASONABLY GOOD**

Reports for the New England Crop Reporting Service as of August 1, show that the outlook for crops is mostly fair to good yields and high quality. Most of the main hay crop has been harvested with but little rain damage, and although yields outside southern Maine, northern New Hampshire, and Vermont run slightly under average, the quality and feeding values are excellent. Southern Maine, northern New Hampshire, and Vermont have big hay crops. Lack of help will cause some hay to go unharvested, and the harvested acreage of wild hay is likely to be lessened. Late rains are bringing the hay crop on rapidly. Pastures which during the drought had become badly dried up, are reviving, and should help to keep the live stock in good condition. The other feed crops oats, barley, buckwheat, and corn are not quite up to average, due to lack of rains in June and early July, but corn is now coming on fast.

Prospects for the New England potato crop declined from a forecast, July 1, of 37,610,000 bushels to 36,546,000 bushels, August 1. Last year's short crop was 32,240,000 and the 5 year average 37,570,000. Up to date July, the season in Aroostook, Maine and in Connecticut was unfavorable, but late rains are making rapid improvement in Aroostook's crop. The stand there was early judged quite poor, but later opinion considers it up to average for the country as a whole. Elsewhere in New England the crop mostly is in good condition and promises well.

The August 1 forecast for United States potatoes is 379,553,000 bushels, against 381,220,000 forecast July 1, and last year's bumper crop of 451,187,000 and the five year average of 390,173,000. Only brought small declines in New York, Minnesota, and Colorado, but other states gained about an equal amount. Marketwise, the present outlook appears quite favorable.

Reports from the fruit men forecast a commercial apple crop for New England of 1,000,000 barrels against 1,260,000 last year, and the five year average of 1,163,000. July brought a slight decline. In spite of many irregularities, the crop outlook tends to be more uniform over New England this year. Astrachan and Transparent lead as the favorite summer varieties in all states, while McIntosh leads in fall apples with Wealthy and Snow as close seconds. Sets in Maine is reported quite prevalent, but on the whole, the outlook is for fruit of good quality. New England's peach crop is mostly quite good, as pears are generally a light crop.

Washington county, Maine produces the bulk of the United States commercial blueberry crop, and reports a good crop this year.

The Connecticut valley crop of sets is now being harvested and marketed, and yields run from 200 to 400 bags per acre. Sets have 17 per cent of the total onion acreage, and seed onions 8 per cent. Seed onions are mostly poor, due to unfavorable weather and thrips. Late rains should benefit the crop more or less.

Breaking away from a succession of years unfavorable to tobacco, this season promises a tobacco crop much better in yield and quality than has been produced in several years. Hail damage to date is less than usual, and early rains are being harvested in good condition.

Massachusetts holds first place in the cultivation of cranberries, and the present outlook is for a crop much better than for some years past.

V. A. SANDERS  
C. D. STEVENS  
Baptisticians

**PROTECTION OF WHITE PINE  
FROM BLISTER RUST PAYS  
BIG DIVIDENDS**

The experience of the past 7 years in fighting the white pine blister rust has proven conclusively that control can be paid for. Protection is essential to the destruction of all kinds of wild and cultivated plants, including trees, which grow fast and bear fruit. Thus losses spread the same rate of growth and result in a rapidly destructive disease. The exception is the cultivated black walnut which may infect pine without loss of one leaf. No other plant could do better than to white pine, as the disease can not spread directly from pine to pine.

In the northeastern states, the cost of destroying currant and gooseberry vines averaged about 20 cents per acre last year. This low cost represents the average expenditure for clearing large areas in the different States. The cost of protecting the individual tree may be more or less depending largely upon the number of bushes to be sprayed, the character of ground to be treated, and the efficiency of individuals doing the work. When effort is really well done eradication will not be necessary for at least 5 to 10 years, except perhaps in local areas where the bushes were originally very numerous.

Assuming reconditioning necessary to be repeated, the character of ground to be treated, and the efficiency of individuals doing the work. When effort is really well done eradication will not be necessary for at least 5 to 10 years, except perhaps in local areas where the bushes were originally very numerous.

**MAINE WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL  
REVIEW**

5 years, the cost of protection per acre would amount to 4 or 5 cents per year. According to U. S. Forest Service figures, the average unengaged, fully-stocked white pine lot should yield by its 40th year at least 23,500 board feet, while stands on best sites should yield 32,500 board feet. At a stumpage rate of \$10.00 per thousand board feet, this 40 year old pine would be worth from \$235 to \$325 per acre. At 5 cents per year for protection from the blister rust, the cost for 40 years would be but \$2.00 per acre on protected areas, plus interest charges. This leaves a net income of \$233 to \$325 from the land, whereas on unprotected areas the value of the crop would be seriously reduced by blister rust, and in areas where currants and gooseberries are abundant, the rust would cause a total loss of the crop.

An example of the potential profit in pine protection is illustrated by work done in the town of Petersham, Mass., where control measures have been applied. In this town, 650,076 currants and gooseberries were destroyed on 11,426 acres which contained an aggregate of 707,500 acres in white pine. The cost of protecting this pine, the value of which was estimated at \$24,160, necessitated an expenditure of only 1.35 per cent of the pine value.

Consult your local blaster rust agent or your Farm Bureau, or the State Forester and solicit their advice concerning the best methods of protecting your pine against the blaster rust.

**CONSERVATION OF VISION  
IN SCHOOLS**

Two weeks after the inauguration of the courses for the preparation of teachers for sight conservation at the state university and the state normal schools, Maine has the nucleus of an army of crusaders against blindness which gives promise of wiping out in this state the preventable causes of this serious and common handicap.

Approximately one hundred picked teachers—one from each school district and all looking forward to becoming rural supervisors—have taken the special course in sight conservation offered at the normal school at Castine this summer as the result of a cooperative arrangement between the normal school, The Maine Public Health Association, and the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, whose headquarters are in the Russell Sage Foundation Building, New York City.

Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, secretary of the National Committee, who came to Maine to give the course first at the University of Maine and then at the normal school, found such a warm interest in the subject that she has acceded to the request of a group of rural Red Cross nurses for special classes in addition to the classes at the university and the normal school. There have also been a number of conferences at which Mrs. Hathaway has explained to the teachers, social workers and health workers of this state the need for conservation of vision activities, particularly among children. As a result of the interest in the prevention of blindness aroused by Mrs. Hathaway's visit and of the actual information concerning the most modern methods of sight saving which has been gained by the teachers and nurses of the state, school children of Maine, when they come back to their classes in September, will be taught not only the three R's and other usual school subjects, but also how to avoid eye strain, eye accidents and eye infections.

At the same time the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness is working on the problem of saving the sight of children from another angle. Under the sponsorship of the Illinois State Engineering Bureau and the American Institute of Architects, and in cooperation with a series of other organizations, the National Committee is drawing up a new code of school lighting. When this code has been completed it is expected it will be possible for every school in the state of Maine to choose with confidence a plan of school lighting which has been devised by the Illinois State Engineering Bureau, school architects, and students of the social, health and educational problems of schools.

The National Committee has always felt that one of the best ways of helping the eyes of youth bright and cheerful is to interest the children themselves in the care of their eyes. To intensify the efforts that have been made in this direction during the ten years of the existence of the National Committee, three aux recently been organized—the Junior Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. Any boy or girl is eligible for membership in this committee which comes with it a Junior News Letter and several children's stories in which the value of sound eyes is told indirectly, but clearly.

It takes a rich capacity to spend the taxation that this country stands.

Telephone engineers have just finished what is said to be world's first enough submarine telephone cable from Santa Catalina Island to the California mainland, twenty-five miles away. Seven conversations can now be carried at once.

Assuming reconditioning necessary to be repeated, the character of ground to be treated, and the efficiency of individuals doing the work. When effort is really well done eradication will not be necessary for at least 5 to 10 years, except perhaps in local areas where the bushes were originally very numerous.

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Portland—New state pier ready to accommodate trans-Atlantic passengers. Caribou—Rapid progress made in potato development in this vicinity.

Portland—Liverpool Steamship Company planned by Canadian Pacific Rail-

**Left Out Important Thing**

A grocer on Beaubien street was explaining some of the little dramas of the trade. Take mustard, he said. Mustard would be pretty cheap if it were not for the containers it comes in. "A traveling man," he continued, "offered me a new brand of mustard a while ago at a good price and I ordered a quantity. It sold fast. When he arrived again I told him I wanted more. But I found the price was boosted. Why is that?" I asked him. "It seems that in figuring up his costs the new manufacturer had figured the cost of his glass jar, the label and the tin cover, but had forgotten the cost of the mustard."—Detroit News.

**Fasting Among Negroes**

In the earlier days fasting among negroes was a common custom preceding to conversion. Dr. Charles T. Walker, a distinguished preacher of the colored race, known as the "Black Surgeon," describes his own experience in his biography, the Detroit News states. On Wednesday of a certain week in the month of June, while he was hoeing cotton, Walker decided to become a "seeker." He followed the usual custom. When he reached the end of the row, without saying a word to anybody, he jumped over the fence and went into the woods. Without eating or drinking, without seeing anyone, he remained in the woods until the following Saturday afternoon, when he was "happily converted."

**Interned Watch**

The man who had just taken his watch from the repair shop asked, for curiosities' sake, how long timepieces were kept, when left there by careless owners. "Well," said the repair man, "in the first place, we never sell a watch no matter how long the owner leaves it here. But a few days ago a man came in to claim his watch and was actually peevish because we experienced a little delay in finding it. It had been here almost exactly three years."—Detroit News.

**Portland—Contract let for construction of sewer on Forest avenue.**

Augusta—Northeastern Forest Experiment Station to begin operation Aug. 1.

Prentiss—Kingman & Prentiss Telephone Company organized at Bangor with \$10,000 capital.

Bangor—Contract let for construction of brick buildings on Hammond street.

Thomaston—New school building to be erected.

Bangor—E. M. G. Hospital to have additions and improvements costing \$110,000.

Lewiston—\$200,000 armory to be erected.

Belfast—City National Bank shows marked increase in business during past 6 months.

The first gas company in the United States was established in 1818, and there are now 45,000,000 persons in the country who use gas for lighting, heating and cooking, and customers increase at the rate of 350,000 a year.

**ENCOURAGING ADVANCE IN U. S. HOME LIFE AND INDUSTRIES**

In eight years electric light and power companies alone have attracted 225,000 consumers as purchasers of electricity stock. The official estimate is that a total of one million customer stock owners will be rolled up within the next three years.

One utility company recently distributed a \$15,000,000 issue among 40,000 customers and 16,000 employees.

W. E. Creed, president of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, this year radicled his address at the annual meeting, and the company even went so far as to rig up relays in different communities so that entire audiences could hear him speak.

The industry figures upon requiring \$1,000,000,000 new capital next year.

Bell telephone in the United States has 10,000,000 subscribers in all other countries of the world combined. There are 10,000 separate telephone companies in the United States, of which 9,000 connect their stations with the Bell System.

There are also many rural and 500,000 urban lines, over 57,000 of which are not yet connected with the Bell System.

Businessmen and employees, it is argued, will soon now be furnish at least one-half of the country's total capital requirements.

The amount coming from the public sources this year is expected to be \$100,000,000.

Individuals in our recent daily newspaper agency, lumber, lawyers, doctors, clergymen, government employees, newspaper men, manufacturers, carpenters, bakers, butchers, bankers, physicians, dentists, engineers, mechanics, weavers, tailors, housewives, the list includes the list.

An investigation of an alleged "bootlegger" insurance company which provides counsel and pays all dues and costs assessed on its members when they are convicted in court is being made by the Springfield, Mass., police and starting developments are promised. The police say that the "president" of the insurance club is a well known storekeeper, who deals in malt, hops and other ingredients used for the manufacture of home brew and moonshine. The club members, numbering more than 1000, according to the police, consist of customers at this store, who pay \$1 a week for protection.

Tax Commissioner Henry F. Long has sent out to all Massachusetts assessors statements of the distribution of the income tax according to their local share and the amount of the state tax for the city or town. The item under the head of the income tax includes also the sum of which is distributed under the head of the allowance for school support. Commissioner Long estimates the total income tax for this year at \$10,000,000, down from \$11,000,000 last year.

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GOES . . .****ATTENTION****9 Day Shoe Sale 9****BEGINNING DOLLAR DAY**

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During this sale our entire stock of merchandise, with the exception of Barker Moccasins, Laces, Polishes, and Foot Comfort Devices will be sold at Bargain Prices.

We are going to reduce our stock and must sacrifice prices.

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## GIFT OF THE DESERT

by  
RANDALL PARRISH

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### SYNOPSIS

rock strewn and almost as desolate as had been the desert itself, but with here and there a patch of grass visible, and a few scattered, wind-racked trees. It was a scene scarcely less

**CHAPTER I.**—On the isolated Meager ranch, on the edge of the border, Deborah, Meredith, trained nurse, is in attendance on Mrs. Meager, whose husband has recently been killed, victim of an accident. Immediately after the death, Bob Meager, Deborah's stepson, arrives and takes possession. His insults distress Deborah and she resolves to leave, but there seems no possibility of her getting away alone.

**CHAPTER II.**—Meager gloats over Deborah's plight, telling her he has chosen her to be his wife, and she will marry them tomorrow. Hurriedly, the girl secures a revolver.

**CHAPTER III.**—The Justice, Cornelia Garrity, scoundrel and bawd friend of Meager, arrives with a party, among them the "Frisco Kid," notorious desperado. The girl looks herself up.

**CHAPTER IV.**—Forced by Bob, Mrs. Meager sends Deborah from the room and, with him, goes to the church to perform the marriage ceremony. Immediately afterward, she escapes and reaches her room.

**CHAPTER V.**—Meager seeks the girl, but she stuns him with the rifle to the stability, hoping to secure a horse and ride away from Meager. If she must die in the desert, with the "Frisco Kid." Somehow she inspired him with confidence, and she explains the situation, he not having been present at the "wedding."

**CHAPTER VI.**—The "Kid" tells her his name is Daniel Kelleen, that he is no friend of Meager, and, securing two horses, the pair ride into the desert.

**CHAPTER VII.**—Alone with Kelleen, the girl becomes somewhat apprehensive, telling him of his service in France, where he became a hero, and she puts full faith in him.

**CHAPTER VIII.**—Kelleen explains that the "Frisco Kid" is in fact a cowardly character, that he is really a captain in the regular army, detailed to the Mexican border to hunt down bandits, and among his associates of arms is Mexico, among them Meager and Garrity.

**CHAPTER IX.**—While the girl is sleeping exhausted, Kelleen disappears. Later, from a hiding place, Deborah bears him talking with Juan Sanchez, assistant of Meager, and from the conversation she learns that Kelleen is really a member of the gang. Her apprehensions returned, she seeks to escape, but is seized by a concealed man.

**CHAPTER X.**—Deborah's captor carries her to what is apparently a cave. Feeling he has her securely a prisoner, he is wanton and肆虐, and she seeks a way of escape. Exploring the cave she finds the body of a dead man, who has been shot in the back. But if no trace remained along the western shore. Convinced of this, Deborah, leading her horse, crossed the narrow stream, stepping from rock to rock, and clambering up the level plateau on the other side. Even here little was visible, and she would have overlooked even these signs but for old Tom's training. Evidence was found—the scattered dead ashes of a fire; the mark of a shot horse's hoof, an open sheath knife, the blade not yet rusted from exposure, and a half-dozen emptied cartridge shells. Later, upstream a few rods, she found where a dozen horses had been tied to a picket rope, stamping their hoofs into the soft soil. But beyond this point the soil ceased, and, whatever trail there was vanished on a surface of hard rock which left no trace. Nevertheless she mounted once more, and rode on, still with her course to the south.

**CHAPTER XI.**—While resting, after her terrible experience, Deborah hears a conversation between Bob Meager and Kelleen, apparently a villainous quarrel. The two part, Kelleen riding off alone, and the girl, apparently seeking something, finds the dead man and escapes. She meets Meager, who has been searching for her, and repulses him, telling him to leave her. While they are conversing, Kelleen discovers the presence, on the plain far below, of an outfit which she identifies as belonging to the notorious character named Casper, and is doubtless on the way into Mexico with arms and ammunition.

**CHAPTER XII.**—Kelleen explains the situation to Deborah, telling her he has got word to a party of American cavalry, who are to capture the "Frisco Kid" and his gang. They are to follow him to the mountains, and when he reaches the camp, and Sanchez, apparently, he will be captured. Deborah, however, has not survived the bullet which hit the girl. She fails to discover the presence of Deborah. On their descent, Kelleen has the girl mount the horse which follows him, and the direction which Kelleen has taken, and so leading to Fox canyon.

**CHAPTER XIII.**—A short distance from Fox canyon is met by the two, which Kelleen had been riding, the animal allows her to mount him, and she turns him around. Instantly, as the horse turns, he rears, and the girl is thrown to the ground. She could not have survived the bullet which hit the girl. She fails to discover the presence of Deborah. On their descent, Kelleen has the girl mount the horse which follows him, and the direction which Kelleen has taken, and so leading to Fox canyon.

**CHAPTER XIV.**—The girl again finds dead man in the trail, experienced the grip of three horsemen, and one more, in fact, her lover, had done the black horse, and then struggled onward through that awful hole in the tight top. Then at that followed, followed so swiftly, was but a jumble of events, yet each distinct, unfortunately, turned on her soul. True it could not be true! It must be delirium, a wild fiction of romance racing to the brain of a half-dreamer. Yet this was the desert—the desert! She lifted her eyes to look, gazing out madly over the dull gray expanse. What was it over reader? A tree? A ridge of uplifted rocks? Not much, surely, and yet everything in midst of that solitude. Her heart beat suddenly with hope. Perhaps that marked the end; perhaps that was where the trail ran—the trail to her canyon. If so, God was good!

The tired horse lifted his head, and whinnied, breathing late a slow trill.

He said crackling under his hoofs. Deborah was wide awake now, alert and ready. Yet it actually was a tree, and the tops of others began to show above; their presence promised water, green life; that horrid desert left behind. Yet it was a long, dreary ride of an hour before they reached here, coming to a shallow valley which pitched a mere hill.

She reached the top of the white

### CHAPTER XIV

"Alvara's Lost Mine."

Kelleen lay breathless on his back, staring up uncomprehendingly through the tangled branches of a tree. He was bruised, dazed, scarcely certain whether he was dead or alive, yet dimly aware of what had actually occurred. He remembered the split of flame out of the darkness, the report, the bullet striking him, and the horror of that awful fall, as he grasped madly at the air. And what then? Did he lose consciousness? Did the shock numb his brain? He must have crashed headlong through those tree limbs, his progress stopped and diverted, until, by some fate, his bruised and battered body had been flung here, like a bit of driftwood on the bench.

He extended his arms, and felt about to be sure—yes, he lay there on a shelf of earth, out of which that tree grew; the gnarled trunk was within reach of his hand, and another, a smaller one, was at the left. It was so dark there he could see little, yet that fire was still below, and if he should roll off, he would have another sheer drop. God knew how far. He dare make no effort to turn over. How badly was he hurt? He dared to learn the truth, yet forced himself partially to sit up and examine. There was a hole in the east, but none in the shirt beneath; the flesh was torn, but painful to the touch and decidedly swollen. The bullet had struck him, but failed to penetrate; had been deflected by something—his watch? Surely, he carried it there in his upper coat pocket. His fingers drew the watch forth, and the bullet dropped into his lap; he picked it up—another .44—with a queer feeling of horror, and then placed it in a pocket. The rustics of the watch, smashed beyond repair, he flung away. For the moment he was dazed, what it all meant remained vague and confused.

Kelleen began to understand, and his mind to function. He was not killed, not even seriously hurt. He had been almost miraculously saved; but now he must serve himself. He harbored no doubt as to who had shot him, or why. The very manner in which it had been done, out of the concealment of the night, revealed the method of Bob Meager. It was his fashion, his style; the way of a coward, who never met his enemies face to face. Yet why should the fellow have held him as an enemy? The only answer Kelleen could find to this query was Deborah. There was no other satisfactory explanation. Bob had previously known the woman well; he had left the ranch; he believed her still there, hidden in his stepmother's room, his helpless victim on his return. Otherwise the man had nothing against Kelleen, had no suspicion of him, except possibly a desire that he keep out of this particular affair. That surely was not sufficient to justify an attempt at cold-blooded murder. No, it must have left some trail behind.

And what had become of her? Kelleen had no recollection of a second shot, so it was altogether probable she had been spared, and was again a prisoner in the hands of her brutal husband. If so, no greater service could be rendered the girl than an exposure of Bob Meager's baseness. With the fellow once safely in the hands of the law she would obtain release, and the opportunity of escape if she so desired. And he felt no doubt as to her desire. The man had taken her by force; her earlier dislike had been changed into hatred—and now—since then another compelling force might have come into her life. Kelleen smiled, sitting up in the darkness, his mind dwelling over the memory of those hours they had passed together. He realized suddenly how much he already cared for her, how deeply her worthlessness had impressed him; what it would mean if she should run back to Bob Meager. What had become of them? "Alvara's Lost Mine!" The words seemed to burn themselves on his mind, and before him arose a vision of the old Spaniard working there alone in the long years ago. Could it be possible? After all this time had he actually rediscovered that ancient storehouse of fabulous wealth, that golden treasury of which all northern Mexico had dreamed? And what of Alvara? He had disappeared, men said; died in the heart of the desert; went forth never to return. Had he met that mysterious death here in this black hole, surrounded by his golden treasures? Did he lie there in loneliness through the long years since? and was he there still on guard over his treasure?

Kelleen stopped, holding his breath, conscious of the person's breathing beside his face. Was the pinee occurred? Did death lurk there, threatening, eager for another victim? He cast aside the thought with a gesture of bitter scorn. All trace of the supernatural left him, and in its place came men. What had been? He was one man pitted against twenty of them; but only one chance being Meager's belief that he was dead, and safe out of the way. He must remain hidden, undiscovered until he learned the truth. His mind grasped the situation swiftly; he planned the one course of action. There was no reason why Kelleen should return to the water; they had already walked and stored away out of sight whatever they had to transport. Their whole interest must be to get safely away on the dark trail before daylight. Already the fire had died down into mere embers, and he believed, a part at least of the pack train had departed. After they had gone only Meager, and his small party would be left behind. How many there might be of these Kelleen had no means of knowing. Yet it was scarcely probable many were Meager himself, Sanchez and one or two others; perhaps not enough to prove particularly dangerous, if they did not even suspect his being alive.

Tomorrow early that road of rat-traps must appear from Fox canyon; they would start up this way if nothing occurred to detain them. Those were their orders, and, if they followed the trail, they could scarcely fail to reach this hole in the desert. All he needed to do in the meantime was to discover exactly what this

was up to, and then wait.

To his mind the key of the whole

mystery must lie in that cave tunnel described by Deborah. If he could once probe into its secret the whole strange case would be solved. If any investigation was to be made, it must be attempted now—he would take the chance.

To decide, with Kelleen, was to act. The peril of the adventure scarcely occurred to him; his life had long before insured him to danger. All he sought was opportunity. Slowly, cautiously, keeping well back in the shadow, he lowered his body down the face of the cliff, taking advantage of every irregularity, outcropping rocks giving him foot and handhold, until he finally reached the firm turf below. As he glanced back over his course, marking the high outline of the crest against the lighter sky above, the memory of that awful plunge over the edge left him for an instant sick and nerveless. Then he drove the recollection from him with a bitter laugh. What odds! he was alive; he would pay the debt. He could not stand there like a frightened child in the dark. He moved on in the depth of the cliff shadow with eyes searching the gloom and ears listening for any sound.

In that darkness he scarcely realized where he was, yet, when he came to it, experienced no difficulty in recognizing the mound on which he and Deborah had taken breakfast together. He climbed the sloping side cautiously on hands and knees, his revolver drawn and clenched in his nerveless fingers. The man was cool now, and ready, advancing steadily through the maze of rocks strewing the surface, until he felt out the slight evidences of a trail. Here was where Deborah must have attempted her retreat, as it skirted the face of the cliff, which bulged out above him. The front was draped with clinging vines, while below he found a tangle of bushes, almost impenetrable. Kelleen crept along these, vainly seeking some opening, and, finally, in despair, pressed them aside, crawling noiselessly into the dark covert, seeking that opening in the rock which must be hidden somewhere beyond. Its discovery eluded him, and it was not until he ventured to stand erect, feeling above the lower barrier of rock, that he really convinced himself of its existence. He stood hesitatingly, his heart thumping from excitement. There was no sound of movement within—only profound silence and impenetrable darkness. Yet surely this could be no storage house, no more receivable for stolen goods as he previously had imagined. There was no beaten trail leading to it; no dead, trampled vines, no pathway opening through the shrubs. The secret of the place remained hidden, its shield undisturbed. Whoever came here must have weaved their way as carefully as he had, concealing all evidence of passage, leaving no trail behind.

In spite of the shrinking of his flesh, Kelleen began to advance, feeling with his feet, and keeping one hand against the rough side wall. It was a tunnel beyond all doubt, leading at first straight into the cliff, the sides chipped and irregular, leaving to the touch of his fingers the ridge marks of a pick. Men had toiled here, not nature, and had plainly left their handwork. When? How long ago? What had become of them? "Alvara's Lost Mine!" The words seemed to burn themselves on his mind, and before him arose a vision of the old Spaniard working there alone in the long years ago. Could it be possible? After all this time had he actually rediscovered that ancient storehouse of fabulous wealth, that golden treasury of which all northern Mexico had dreamed? And what of Alvara? He had disappeared, men said; died in the heart of the desert; went forth never to return. Had he met that mysterious death here in this black hole, surrounded by his golden treasures? Did he lie there in loneliness through the long years since? and was he there still on guard over his treasure?

With the instant all strength left Kelleen. The knife dropped from his fingers, and he rested motionless, scarcely breathing, his eyes staring up into the dark. He had won; he was not seriously hurt, yet for the moment could not even realize his victory. Yet gradually he traced the wife he had wished—the wife he had killed. Who was he? Who he was he had killed her he lay there now beside him in the dark—dead. The very horror of it started anew the blood in his veins, that dead man lying there, motionless, becoming cold, with open eyes staring up at the tunnel roof. And he had killed him—killed him with the knife. Yet it had been a fair fight, man to man, and one of them had to die. He could breathe better now, and he sat up, trembling and shivering back from contact with the dead body. He could not see it, but he knew it was there.

Kelleen stopped, holding his breath, conscious of the person's breathing beside his face. Was the pinee occurred? Did death lurk there, threatening, eager for another victim? He cast aside the thought with a gesture of bitter scorn. All trace of the supernatural left him, and in its place came men. What had been? He was one man pitted against twenty of them; but only one chance being Meager's belief that he was dead, and safe out of the way. He must remain hidden, undiscovered until he learned the truth. His mind grasped the situation swiftly; he planned the one course of action. There was no reason why Kelleen should return to the water; they had already walked and stored away out of sight whatever they had to transport. Their whole interest must be to get safely away on the dark trail before daylight. Already the fire had died down into mere embers, and he believed, a part at least of the pack train had departed. After they had gone only Meager, and his small party would be left behind.

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of the fellow came trooping back to his mind in vivid memory—cruel, remorseless, without mercy, hunted like a wild beast, yet ever escaping the toils, he had left a trail of blood over all that land. Well, he was dead now!

Yet how came he to be there? Was this his hiding place? or was this man there for some new crime? If so—what? And Bob Meager? Juan Sanchez? Were they also sharers in his villainy? Could they be members of this bandit's gang? Was it from here he led his hounds over the desert and plain?

The recurrence of these names instantly brought back to Kelleen a realization of his own peril. Gomez was dead, killed by his hand. Unwittingly, unknowingly, there in the dark, in desperate combat, he had avenged a hundred murders by the thrust of a knife. But these others—they were still alive; they would surely come. There could be no doubt of that. All that Deborah had told flashed across his mind—her encounter with this same Mexican ruffian—why, she had even described the fellow's long, spindly arms, but he never once had thought of Gomez—or her creeping onward along the tunnel; the sudden change in its direction, and her stumbling over a dead body in the dark. He recalled the story of her escape, creeping up that narrow passage, through which she could barely squeeze her slender body; the driving after her from below, and her aimless shot sent in return; then the desperate struggle which ended on the desert above. And what then? Meager, going straight to that same hole and calling down for Manuel using his very name.

Well, there was no Manuel now on guard there, but he could not face these other two alone, and they would surely be there by dawn at least. He arose to his feet, still dazed and confused, hardly able to tell directions, but driven by a wild impulse to escape, to get safely out of that silent blackness, that grave, in which he felt smothered and imprisoned. His groping fingers discovered a crevice in the stone, as though the solid rock had been rent asunder, a deep, irregular gash yawning the length of his arm. He even advanced a step into the strange fissure, wondering at its existence, tempted to explore its secret, when they came! He heard them pressing aside the vines and clambering to the top of the rock which helped conceal the entrance. They did this apparently without fear, with no impending sense of danger, and then dropped to the floor of the tunnel. There were two of them; he could tell that by the sound—Meager and Sanchez. But where, then, was Deborah, Meager's wife?

### CHAPTER XV

**The Light Goes Out.**  
Kelleen waited in an agony of suspense, his thoughts with the missing girl, rather than on his own peril, or the nearness of those men groping blindly toward him in the darkness. That they were surprised, startled at not being greeted by Gomez was plainly evidenced from the first gruff utterance reaching his ears.

"Where the hell is the fellow?" Meager exclaimed angrily. "I told you I called him from up above and got no answer. Now, by G-d! he isn't even down here."

"Oh, he's here all right. There was no chance for his getting away without our knowing it. We had our men about here all the time."

"Your men?" Meager laughed scornfully. "Those greasers; they would only be playthings for Manuel. Hell—man! you can't even keep your eyes on Frisco."

"He sure told me one d— straight story. He seemed to know about all that was going on. I'd heard a lot about him. I knew he was a friend of yours, and supposed him all right."

"And spilt oil if you knew d—n a Mex, anyhow."

"Well, didn't he?" "He ain't nothing just now. I did run with him a bit, of course, down below the line. But he wasn't invited into this game, and his being with Garrity was just an accident. At least I took it that way at first. Now I sorta reckon it maybe was all a put-up job. I ain't exactly made up my mind what the guy was up to—but I spilt something."

"He could be bad." "He ain't nothing just now. I did run with him a bit, of course, down below the line. But he wasn't invited into this game, and his being with Garrity was just an accident. At least I took it that way at first. Now I sorta reckon it maybe was all a put-up job. I ain't exactly made up my mind what the guy was up to—but I spilt something."

"What do you mean?" "Just what I told you before. You're a bullet-headed nobody can tell you nothing. I never did think that fellow shot was alone. He was talking somebody when we crept up—I heard him."

"Talking to himself; you never saw nobody but him."

"No, I didn't; he was up on that rock against the sky, but there might have been somebody else out of sight on the ground. You was in such a d—n hurry to get to Casper, you wouldn't do anything else."

"Course, I knew the 'Frisco' was alone, and after that tumble he took he wouldn't bother no more. We had to get Casper's gang out of here before day-light."

"I don't know why. You haven't told me much. Why didn't you let the outfit go on? What did you want? What had the ladies here for, and them send them back?"

(To be continued)

Department of Agriculture estimates increase in July crop for 1923, 25 per cent.



